

Fast Facts...

- ▶ WSF operates the largest ferry system in the country, carrying over 11 million vehicles and 24 million people each year on 24 vessels through 20 ferry terminals in the Puget Sound region. In comparison, Sea-Tac Airport handles 29 million passengers annually.
- ▶ There are three levels of Maritime Security – MARSEC 1, MARSEC 2 and MARSEC 3. Maritime security levels are independent of Homeland Security levels and are triggered by threats specific to the maritime industry.
- ▶ Trained canines are a highly effective way to screen vehicles. A dog’s sense of smell is believed to be 20,000 times more sensitive than a human’s. This allows a dog to detect even small amounts of explosive material.



Your Role

As a passenger, **you** play a vital role in the security and safety at WSF.

- ◆ **Never leave personal belongings unattended.** Unattended items are cause for concern and should be reported immediately.
- ◆ **Never transport hazardous materials or explosives.** Attempts to carry items like illegal fireworks may cause travel delays.
- ◆ **All vehicles are subject to security screening.** Arrive early. Submission to screening is a condition of vehicle transport.
- ◆ **Passengers cannot leave the ferry once they have boarded.** The vessel captain will be contacted if a passenger asks to leave the ferry after loading has commenced. It is up to the captain to determine if the request will be granted.
- ◆ **Report suspicious persons, objects or activities immediately to a crewmember or law enforcement personnel.**
This includes unusual photography of ferry operations; people displaying heightened interest in restricted areas or taking notes while observing ferry operations; and suspicious waterside activities on or around the dock and ferries.

If you see something suspicious or out of place, **report** it to terminal or vessel personnel immediately, **call** 911, or **contact** the United States Coast Guard at (206) 217-6002.



See something?
Say something!

A Passenger’s Guide to
System Security at the
Washington State Ferries



For more information about the Washington State Ferries Security Plan, please contact us at: wsfsecurity@wsdot.wa.gov

WSF and You:
Partners in Safety and Security





The goal of the Washington State

Ferries (WSF) Security Plan is to keep our passengers and crew safe while maintaining our high level of service.

Heightened security has become a way of life. Are terrorists targeting a Washington State Ferry? No one knows for sure, but it is clear that the threat is real.

As demonstrated by international events in recent years, the U.S. government has determined that our nation’s transportation system is a potential target. It should come as no surprise that the nation’s largest ferry system, and a key transportation link in western Washington, is also at risk.

In November 2002, the President of the United States signed into law the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA) in an effort to improve United States’ maritime security. In response, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) mandated new security regulations that apply to most vessel and marine facilities in the country.

Our Plan

WSF and You: Partners in Safety and Security

The safety and security of everyone who rides aboard a Washington State Ferry is our top priority.

Since the events of September 2001, we have worked closely with our security partners, the Washington State Patrol and the United States Coast Guard, to implement a comprehensive security plan unique to our operations.

The Washington State Ferries plan relies on the following for our continued success in keeping you secure:

- ◆ Implementation of WSF Terminal and Vessel Security Measures
- ◆ Support of and coordination with Coast Guard & Washington State Patrol
- ◆ Your active participation

Security Measures

Washington State Ferries has implemented security measures consistent with our U.S. Coast Guard approved security plan.

The security procedures you will encounter are based on the threat level towards the maritime industry. For example, Maritime Security Level 1 (MARSEC 1) represents normal operations with select security measures in place. These security measures will not interfere with WSF operations and sailing schedules.

Examples of our security procedures include:

- ◆ Vessel security announcements
- ◆ Regular security patrols of the car deck and passenger areas
- ◆ Vessel security sweeps following arrival in port
- ◆ Video cameras continuously monitor public and restricted access areas around the terminals and aboard the vessels
- ◆ Restricted areas onboard the ferries and at the terminals are clearly marked. Passengers should stay out of all restricted areas
- ◆ Security gates restrict unauthorized access to our vessels
- ◆ All WSF personnel are required to prominently wear identification badges

At higher MARSEC levels, increased security measures will apply.

Coast Guard Escorts

The U.S. Coast Guard provides random patrol boat escorts that enforce a moving security zone. This prohibits any vessel, large or small, from approaching within 100 yards of our ferries while underway or within 25 yards of a ferry moored at a terminal.

Washington State Patrol

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) has created a specialized division specifically dedicated to our Vessel and Terminal security. This division employs officers to patrol our facilities, utilizes specially trained canine teams, and provides law enforcement professionals to act as WSF’s security force.

Vehicle Screening

WSP dogs are present in the car holding lanes at ferry terminals. If the dog detects explosive materials, further investigation will occur and may include physical inspection of the vehicle. The dogs are specially trained to detect explosive materials only. The dogs may also be seen in the terminals.

At heightened security threat levels, screening by Washington State Patrol troopers may supplement the canines as needed to meet increased requirements. Should it become necessary, this supplemental screening would include a visual inspection by a trooper of enclosed compartment areas such as a trailer, canopy, trunk, passenger, or engine compartment.